

File F-415
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24 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence
THROUGH : Acting Director, Center for Policy Support
SUBJECT : CIA Participation at the International
Studies Association Conference

STATINTL

1. DDI personnel participated conspicuously in St. Louis at the ISA convention, and so far have received only the highest compliments for their parts and for CIA analytical efforts. The panel on quantitative methodologies in political analysis, chaired by [redacted] and including four other Agency analysts, played to a standing-room-only crowd. By my count there were 73 people in attendance.

2. Professor William Coplin of Syracuse University, the panel commentator, praised the papers for their high quality, relevance, and clarity. He criticized them, however, for an alleged "right-wing bias." He explained this to mean that the authors were overly concerned with discussing negative outcomes and events in US foreign relations. In balance, his comments were quite favorable, and he held up the CIA papers as a positive model for the academic community to emulate. In the extended discussions that ensued, there was barely a word of criticism from the audience of the papers, the panelists, or CIA.

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3. [redacted] of ORPA presented a paper at another panel, and it also was conducted in a constructive environment. [redacted] of OER, who was scheduled to present his paper, "Fisheries and the Economic Zone," did not attend, but his paper apparently was summarized by another panelist.

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4.

[redacted] filling in at the last moment for [redacted]

[redacted] presented the Agency perspective in a panel on executive-legislative relations. A paper by two staffers from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was presented. Alton Frye of the Council on Foreign Relations chaired the session, and there was a lively but unvitriolic discussion for about an hour largely conducted between [redacted] and members of the audience. [redacted] very ably fielded a variety of questions about past and present CIA activities, and the mood of the meeting was overwhelmingly favorable.

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5. I had numerous and profitable meetings with academic colleagues during the convention, spent an evening with faculty and students of the St. Louis area Latin American Association (though I had not accepted an invitation from them to be the speaker that evening), and I met with a representative of the Center for International Studies, a small, St. Louis-based think tank. I am preparing a separate memo on the latter.

6. Agency people probably have never played such a conspicuous role at academic conferences before, and I hope that our people can continue to be evident and active at future conventions with no unpleasant consequences. In this regard, I will be meeting soon with the program chairman of next year's ISA convention in the hopes of coordinating the participation of DDI analysts at the convention in Washington next February.

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[redacted]
Coordinator for Academic Relations
and External Analytical Support

-2-

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